unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both H or halogen;

R_9 is halogen;

Z is independently selected from R_6, halogen, OOH, $OC(O)R_6$, oxo, amine, azide, thiol, mercaptoalkyl, alkenyloxy, mercaptoalkenyl, aryloxy, mercaptoaryl, arylalkyloxy, mercaptoarylalkyl, $SC(O)R_6$, $OS(O)R_6$, $OS(O)_2R_6$, $NHC(O)R_6 = NR_4$ or NHR_4; and

R_4 is OH, alkyl, alkoxy, poly(ethylene glycol), alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl,

provided that:

when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H or Br and R_9 is Br, then Z is other than H, $OC(O)CH_3$ or OH;

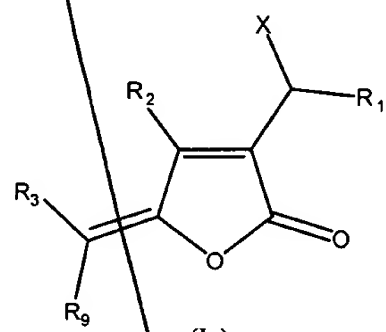
when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H and R is I, then Z is other than $OC(O)CH_3$ or OH;

when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H and R is Cl, then Z is other than OH;

when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is H, R_3 and R are Br, then Z is other than H; and

when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_9 is Cl and Z is H, then R_3 is other than Cl.

2. (amended) A compound according to formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

X is a halogen, OH, OOH, $OC(O)R_1$ or oxo;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen; and

R_9 is halogen,

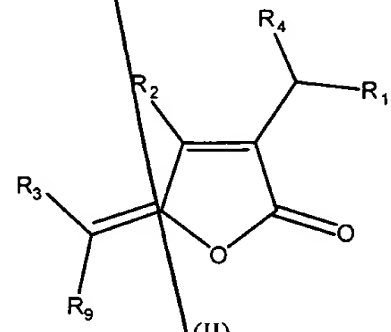
provided that:

when R_1 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H or Br and R_9 is Br, then X is other than $OC(O)CH_3$ or OH;

when R_1 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H and R_9 is I, then X is other than OC(O)CH, or OH; and

when R_1 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H, R_9 is Cl, then X is other than OH.

3. (amended) A compound according to formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 is hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R_9 is halogen; and

R_4 is selected from halogen, amine, azide, hydroxyl, thiol, or hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic alkyl, alkoxy, mercaptoalkylalkenyloxy, mercaptoalkenyl, aryloxy, mercaptoaryl, arylalkyloxy, mercaptoarylalkyl, $OC(O)R_1$, $SC(O)R_1$, $OS(O)R_1$, $OS(O)_2R_1$, $NHC(O)R_1$, $OC(O)NHR_1$, or oxo,

provided that:

when R_4 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H or Br, and R_9 is Br, then R_1 is other than H, $OC(O)CH_3$ or OH;

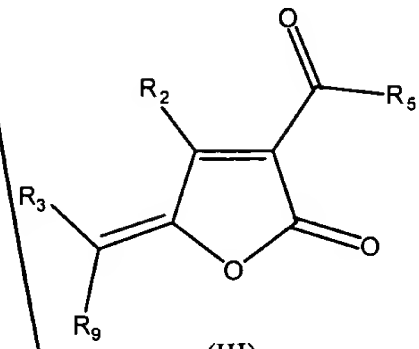
when R_4 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H, R_9 is I, then R_1 is other than OC(O)CH, or OH;

when R_4 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H, R_9 is Cl, then R_1 is other that OH;

when R_4 is propyl, R_2 is H, R_3 and R_9 are Br, then R_1 is other than H; and

when R_4 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 and R_9 are Cl, then R_1 is other than H.

4. (amended) A compound according to formula (III):



(III)

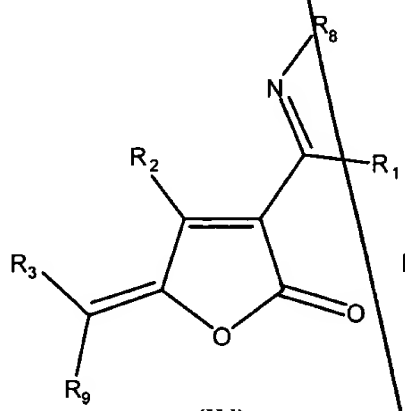
wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R_5 is OH or the same as R_1;

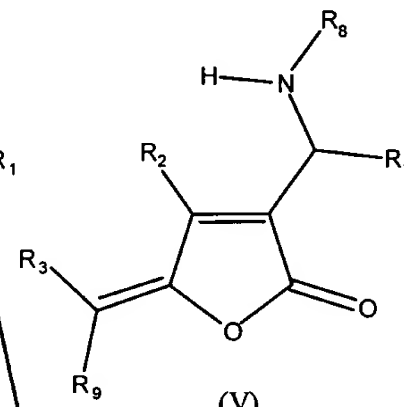
R_9 is halogen; and

R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic.

5. (amended) A compound according to formula (IV) or (V):



(IV)



(V)

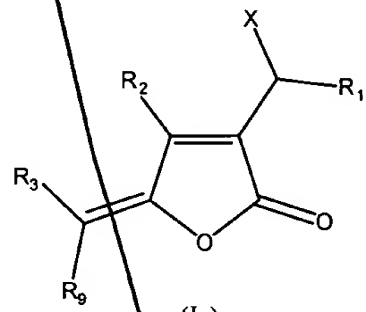
wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R_9 is halogen; and

R_8 is OH, NHR_1, $NHC(X)NH_2$, $NHC(X)NHR_1$ or R_1 where X is O, S or NR_1.

6. (amended) A method for forming a compound of formula (Ia), the method comprising reacting a fimbrolide with a halogenating agent and/or an oxygenating agent to form the compound of formula (Ia):



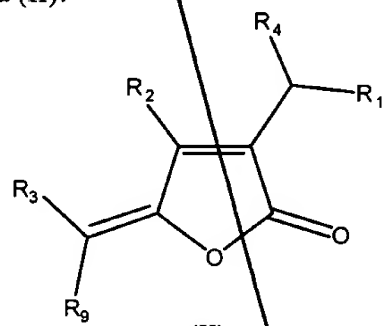
(Ia)

wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic; X is a halogen, OH, OOH, $OC(O)R_1$ or oxo;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen; and

R_9 is halogen.

9. (amended) A method for forming a compound of formula II, the method comprising displacing and/or functionalizing a halogen or oxygen substituent in the side chain of a fimbrolide compound by treating the fimbrolide compound with a nucleophile or an electrophile to form the compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

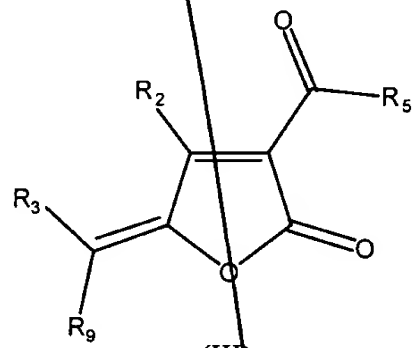
R_9 is halogen; and

R_4 is selected from halogen, amine, azide, hydroxyl, thiol, or any hydrophobic,

hydrophilic or fluorophilic alkyl, alkoxy, mercaptoalkyl, alkenyloxy, mercaptoalkenyl, aryloxy, mercaptoaryl, arylalkyloxy, mercaptoarylalkyl, $OC(O)R_1$, $SC(O)R_1$, $OS(O)R_1$, $OS(O)_2R_1$, $NHC(O)R_1$, $OC(O)NHR_1$, or oxo,

provided that when R_4 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 and R_9 are Cl, then R_1 is other than H.

12. (amended) A method for forming a compound of formula (III), the method comprising reacting an hydroxyl substituent in the side chain of a fimbrolide with an oxidising agent to form the compound in accordance with formula (III):



(III)

wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R_5 is OH or the same as R_1;

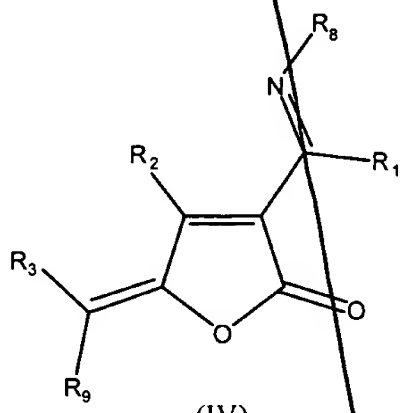
R_9 is halogen; and

R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic.

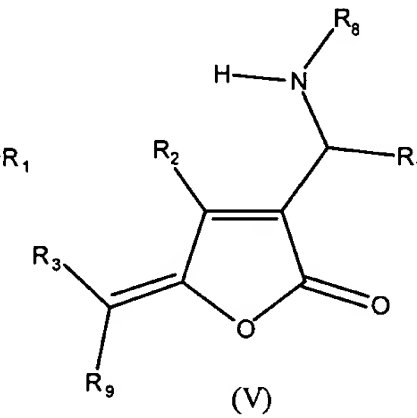
14. (amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the acid dichromate agent is selected from the group consisting of a Jones reagent, pyridinium chlorochromate, and pyridinium dichromate.

15. (amended) A method for forming a compound of formula (IV) or (V), comprising reacting an aldehyde or ketone substituent in the side chain $-C(O)R_5$ of compound (III) with an amine to form a compound of formula (IV) or (V),

wherein formula (IV) and (V) are represented by:



(IV)



(V)

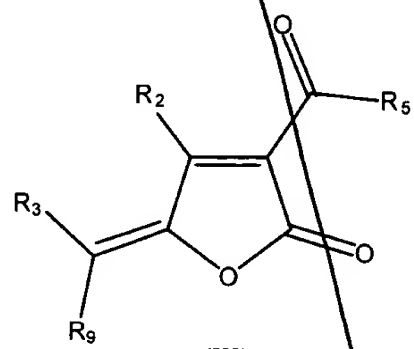
wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R_9 is halogen; and

R_8 is OH, NHR_1, $NHC(X)NH_2$, $NHC(X)NHR_1$ or R_1 where X is O, S or NR_1;

and wherein formula (III) is represented by:



(III)

wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R_5 is OH or the same as R_1;

Sub 4 C. cont'd

R_9 is halogen; and

R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic.

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16. (amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the amine is selected from hydroxyl amine hydrochloride, alkyl and aryl hydrazines, alkyl or aryl amine, optionally in the presence of a reducing agent.

17. (amended) A compound produced by the method of claim 6.

25. (amended) A compound of formula (VI):

Sub 5 C

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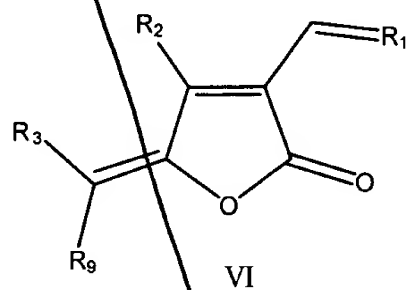

VI

wherein R_1 is alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl whether unsubstituted or substituted, straight chain or branched chain, hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen; and

R_9 is halogen.

27. (amended) A compound produced by the method in accordance with claim 9.

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28. (amended) A compound produced by the method in accordance with claim 12.

29. (amended) A compound produced by the method in accordance with claim 15.